

1041

RUC4, KERK4 "SUNSHINE" '83

CONF000203

DYKES\_I\_000203

REGISTRATION AND SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE October 4, 1983

FULL NAME Kerry S. Ruch (nickname: "Sunshine")  
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS 1460 N. Webster P. O. Box 661

CITY Naperville STATE IL ZIP CODE 60540

DATE OF BIRTH 10/ /51 (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE 32 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION Unknown NATIONALITY German/American

OCCUPATION Own painting business - sporadically

EDUCATION High school and attending George Williams College, Downers Grove, IL.

WEIGHT 165 COLOR White - Ruddy HEIGHT 5'9"

COLOR OF HAIR Dark Brown COLOR OF EYES Unknown

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS Officiates high school sports; a "loner"

MARRIED OR SINGLE Single CHILDREN None  
(Number, ages, and names, if possible)

WIFE'S NAME None

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	OFFICE	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
T 106 (SA)	Naperville	IL	Wheaton	11/81	--

SPECIAL RECOGNITION 20 year veteran 5/81

RECOMMENDED FOR CONFIDENTIAL FILE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

- ☐ CONVICTION OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT ☒ SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS  
☐ OFFICIAL CHARGES OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT (REVIEW) ☐ UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND INDIVIDUAL FOR CONFIDENTIAL FILE AND LIST SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

See attached.

NOTED

NOTED

MAY 31 '84

OCT 3 '83

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

Signed

SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council

E. STARON

Oct 20 1983

CONF000204

DYKES\_I\_000204

Standard Oil Company (Indiana)

200 East Randolph Drive  
Post Office Box 5910A  
Chicago, Illinois 60680  
312-256-3504

Richard H. Last  
Executive Vice President

September 20, 1984

Mr. Kerry S. Ruch  
P. O. Box 661  
Naperville, Illinois 60540

Dear Mr. Ruch:

This is to inform you that the Regional Review Committee has reviewed your case.

As you can see from the attached minutes of their meeting, the Regional Review Committee affirmed the DuPage Area Council's action in this matter.

This will end this matter unless you desire to have further review by the National Council. Similar procedures as those established in the region will be instigated by the National Council if you request the action. If so, you should contact Mr. David Park, Boy Scouts of America, 1325 Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, Tx. 75062-1296.

*RHL*  
cc: J. W. Pinderski  
bcc: Mr. David Parke  
Mr. R. Birkmeier  
Mr. Merritt Daane

DSS

EM

SEP 21 1984

Regional Director  
East Central Region  
AD  
FILE

CONF000206

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SCOUTING/USA

East Central Region — Boy Scouts of America

601 Harger Road, Oak Brook, Illinois 60521  
Telephone: 312 654-2090

September 12, 1984

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Richard H. Leet  
Executive Vice President  
Standard Oil Company (Indiana)  
200 East Randolph Drive  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Dick:

RE: REGIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE  
DuPage Area Council  
Decision Re: Kerry S. Ruch  
P. O. Box 661  
Naperville, IL 60540

Following up my recent letter, the procedure requires that a copy of the committee's decision (enclosed) be sent to Mr. Ruch by you as Regional President.

The additional notes are for your eyes only.

Sincerely,

Jerome W. Pinderski

vh

Enclosure

cc: Nelson L. Carter, Area Director, Area Three  
Elbert W. Aspinall, Associate Area Director, Area Three

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MINUTES

Regional Review Committee for Kerry S. Ruch

Friday, August 24, 1984, 11:00 a.m.

Offices of Jerome W. Pinderski

CONFIDENTIAL

All members of the Review Committee were present as follows:

Jerome W. Pinderski, Chairman  
John C. Jadel  
Grant Herman  
Eugene M. Kinney  
Richard H. Mills

(Elbert W. Aspinall, Associate Area Director served as secretary)

To begin, the committee agreed that their decision would be based on a majority vote, and that the chairman would be included in the vote.

- Each member of the committee has reviewed in detail all of the documentation for this case and had carefully noted their areas of concern.
- Each member of the committee, in turn, expressed their thoughts and concerns regarding the incidents which were described in detail by Mr. Ruch's letters himself, and by other principals related to this occurrence.
- Following considerable discussion and review on the motion of Judge Richard H. Mills, seconded by Eugene Kinney, that the Regional Review Committee affirm the DuPage area Council's action in this matter. The motion passed unanimously.
- The secretary was instructed to draft the necessary letters for the chairman's signature, to record the decisions of this committee.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

ELBERT W. ASPINALL, Associate Area Director  
East Central Region, Illinois

EWA/vh

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Friday, August 24, 1984 11:00 a.m.  
offices of Jerome W. Pinderski

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Eugene Kinney: No real denial of the facts as charged. Ruch did comment and then discuss his reasons for the action. He gave a very weak defense. Gene is really concerned that this person might get into a leadership position where he would be responsible for a number of children.

Jack Jadel: Agreed with Gene Kinney and expressed his concern for Ruch's single involvement as a leader with Scouts. Jack also expressed a concern for the vendetta of Mr. Ruch against Walt Johnson.

Dick Mills: Commented that something is wrong with this guy. He is concerned about the liability of his future actions. Ruch has made his own record, admits to all these things that he told us in his letters about his actions, and he defends them. Ruch clearly admitted that he did what he said and that he had done this before with other boys.

Grant Herman: He made no effort to verify his character, and there was no record of others related in the council or troop to verify his character or support the significance of his long tenure in the Boy Scouts of America.

Jerome Pinderski: Has talked with professionals regarding those who have Ruch's problems. These professionals indicate that there is a definite indication that he has a fetish for children and that he could go over this threshold at any time in the near or distant future.

In general, individual committee members expressed concern about the exposure of the Boy Scouts of America in supporting a leader with these problems. Actions of this nature by Scouting leaders was definitely undesirable for Scouting, and put the program in a very vulnerable situation. The committee agreed that we (the BSA) should not take a chance on behalf of the young people--the risk is far too great. The committee felt that there was a definite need for Ruch to continue to get professional help in dealing with his problems.

ELBERT W. ASPINALL  
Associate Area Director  
Area Three, Illinois

EWA/vh

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Ed  
8-29-84

D R A F T

Mr. Richard H. Leet  
2504 Brookwood Drive  
Flossmoor, IL 60422

Dear Mr. Leet:

As you requested, the Regional Review Committee as appointed by you, which I chair, met on Friday, August 24, 1984. The committee studied the decision of the DuPage Area Council as related to their denial of membership as a Scouting leader to Kerry S. Ruch.

After reviewing all of the materials related, which included very detailed letters from Mr. Ruch himself, the committee unanimously voted to affirm the action of the DuPage Area Council in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jerome W. Pinderski  
Chairman

Enclosure: Meeting minutes

*sent Council + Confidential  
S. J. Pinderski 8-29-84*

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
EAST CENTRAL REGION, 601 Harger Road  
Oak Brook, IL 60521 312/654-2090  
8/29/84

TO: Jerry Pinderski

THESE ARE SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES THAT I  
PERSONALLY WOULD NOT MAKE A PART OF  
THE PUBLISHED MINUTES UNLESS YOU THOUGHT  
THEY SHOULD BE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE GIVE  
A CALL.

EL ASPINALL

El Aspinall

Associate Area Director

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PINDERSKI & PINDERSKI, LTD.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

115 WEST COLFAX - PALATINE, ILLINOIS 60067 - (312) 356-5220 TELEX 206041

JEROME W. PINDERSKI  
JEROME W. PINDERSKI, JR.  
PAUL C. PINDERSKI

TO: Regional Review Committee  
Grant Herman  
John C. Jadel  
Eugene M. Kinney  
Hon. Richard H. Mills  
Elbert W. Aspinall, Secretary

FROM: Jerome W. Pinderski, Chairman

SUBJECT: Regional appeal for Review of Decision of DuPage Area  
Council, B.S.A. to suspend the Registration of  
Kenny Ruch.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the entire file of the DuPage Area Council Review Committee, the Council's decision to suspend the Registration of Kenny Ruch and Mr. Ruch's request for Regional Review.

Our role as a review body is set forth on page 3 of Appendix C at paragraph B. "Procedures to be followed by Region." Because this is such a sensitive matter, I have scheduled a conference at my office, 115 West Colfax, Palatine, Illinois (map enclosed) on August 24, 1984 at 11:00 a.m.

Sincerely,

  
Jerome W. Pinderski

CONF000212

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Standard Oil Company (Indiana)

200 East Randolph Drive  
Post Office Box 5910A  
Chicago, Illinois 60630  
312-656-3504

Richard H. Leet  
Executive Vice President

July 23, 1984

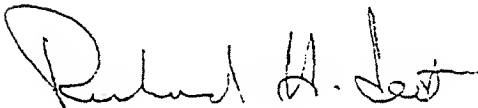
Mr. Kerry S. Ruch  
P. O. Box 661  
Naperville, Illinois 60540

Dear Mr. Ruch:

I have your letter of July 9, 1984 requesting a Regional Review.

A review panel under the chairmanship of area vice president Jerome W. Pinderski has been appointed. You can expect to hear from Mr. Pinderski in the near future.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Leet  
Regional President

bcc: ~~Mr. C. Birkmeier~~

OSS DM

JUL 26 1984

Regional Director  
East Central Region  
AD FILE

CONF000214

DYKES\_I\_000212

READY TO FILE  
JUN 4 1984  
ERIN ORILEY

June 1, 1984

Mr. Walter D. Johnson  
Scout Executive  
Dupage Area Council, No. 148

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Kerry S. Ruch

Dear Walter:

Thank you for the detailed information concerning the above Scouter. We have reviewed this case with our Attorney and have now placed this man on the Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director  
Registration Subscription &  
Statistical Service

tkf

cc: East Central

CONF000215

DYKES\_I\_000213

May 21, 1984

Mr. Kerry Ruch  
P. O. Box 661  
Naperville, Illinois 60540

Dear Mr. Ruch:

I have read your letter with interest. You must make the decision now about what you wish to do. The situation has been acted upon by the local council and reviewed by a panel of distinguished Scouters.

However, the Boy Scouts of America provide you the opportunity to request another review by the regional committee that would be appointed by myself. This committee would review all of the various facets of your request and make a determination either confirming or modifying the local council's decision. A report of the proceedings would be made to the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Please write me should you wish to request a review by a regional committee.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Leet  
President, East Central Region  
Boy Scouts of America

RHL/rab

BCC: Robert C. Birkemeier, Regional Director  
Dan Walker, President, DuPage Area Council  
Walter D. Johnson, Scout Executive  
DuPage Area Council

CONF000216

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60540

Dear Mr. [redacted],

When I went to region to force Walt Johnson into appointing an OA Advisor (which we had been without for over a year although Walt claims it was only four months), I told Al Espanol that if Walt ever found out that I was making waves, he'd have me out of Scouting. Al told me he didn't believe me but I assured him that Walt was indeed a vindictive man. When Walt did find out that it was I, he told certain people (who will not testify out of fear) that if he had his way, I would be eliminated from Scouting. I suppose it's my own fault that I supplied him with such a chance, although I did so completely innocently. After careful consideration, between a 9:30 Thursday evening phone call and 10:00 Friday morning, I found myself suspended from Scouting. Walt, and the review board I insisted upon which was appointed by Dan Walker under the specific instructions of Walt, have convinced themselves that I did everything just short of but possibly including the raping of a young and innocent Scout and that I am mentally unsafe and imbalanced. I spent the entire review meeting correcting their statements and accusations although the record, of which I only caught small portions of and which was kept by Walt, himself, despite my protests, does not reflect the fact that I tried to correct their misconceptions.

As for the incident, it just so happened that, in the course of a non-scout conversation with a young man of almost sixteen years of age who also happened to be in Scouts (his dad was the Scoutmaster at the time of the incident); we happened to be discussing love and friendship. That topic seems inappropriate in some peoples' opinions but I believe that young people today are not fully convinced of the importance of love and friendship and fidelity and patriotism and all the other "old-fashioned" values expressed in our own Oath and Law. As a point of fact, whenever the subject comes up, I'm still advocating virginity until after marriage. At any rate, the young man said that we were very very good friends and that he loved me. I pointed out to

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him that we may be friends with a small "f" or in a very loose and superficial sense of the word, but that there probably wasn't enough commitment or loyalty to say we were very good friends yet and I challenged his use of the concept of love. To prove my point, I asked him if he would do anything I asked to do. He said he would. I told him to think about what he was

saying. I then asked him a series of for instance and hypothetical questions. I asked him: if I asked you to, would you stand on your head and wiggle your ears; if I asked you to, would you promise to call me every night just to talk; and the question that caused the problem, if I asked you to, would you take your clothes off in front of me. These were strictly hypothetical and taken as theoretical examples of commitment. He hesitated at several of the questions, which was exactly the point I was making. I admit that the example that caused my suspension from Scouting was not the smartest thing in the world to say, but I used it innocently enough. I certainly don't believe that it is serious enough of an offense to cause my permanent dismissal from Scouting after over twenty years without such an incident.

About the mental instability, I made inferences to a therapist. I answered every question concerning this matter honestly but am guilty of certain omissions in my testimony. I have consulted a therapist over a dozen times since last April. He is a licensed therapist. I did pay him by bartering my services for his which has cost me to date somewhere between \$500 and \$1,000. He does not want to get involved as he was serving only in an unofficial capacity. By not carefully clarifying certain misconceptions, the review board seems to believe I'm a dangerous lunatic who's trying to cover up some sort of sociopathic tendencies. That is nowhere close to the truth but typical of the delusions fervently believed by the chairman of the board. He stated several times, although Walt conveniently glossed over most of such statements in his record, that a decision had been made and that nothing I said would change it. At one point I became so irritated I asked why they

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had even bothered to have a review since it wasn't a review at all but a rubber stamp upon whatever Walt wanted. Mr. Sawner also stated that single people are by the very fact that they are not married, immature and make poor leaders in Scouting. He further stated that anyone who has undergone psychological treatment is unstable and likely, due to their history, to be similarly unbalanced again in the future thus precluding any involvement with kids of an impressionable age. He also said that forcing someone to strip in front of me automatically eliminated me from any leadership position in Scouting. At the point of each of these statements, I denied that they were actually true or were what actually happened - whichever was appropriate - but his response was always that a decision had been made and that as far as he was concerned, nothing would change it. I finally became exasperated at one point and flat out accused him of being prejudiced and told him that he could never make an unbiased judgement. I also pointed out to him that he, himself, could not guarantee that he would not commit murder sometime in the future. Psychological studies prove that almost 70% of all murders are committed by people with no previous history of violence. Studies also show that young people are "sexually safe" among those who are able to openly talk about such matters provided they are not among the extremely small minority of chronic (and there are no other kinds, by the way) child molesters. My record with numerous youth organizations proves that I am not among that minority. While I'm at it, I might point out that, for your stockpile of trivial information, that although I personally do not choose their lifestyle, children are molested less by homosexuals than by members of the so-called normal society. As a student of psychology and social work specializing in adolescents and their peculiar problems, I make these statements from some ground of expertise although I have a few years to go before I get my PhD.

Tell me, Mr. Leet, do I have a chance of salvaging all those years of dedication to and belief in Scouting, or should I just drop it and try to fill that vast void in my life with other things? I have much I want to do,

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not the least of which is to become involved in counseling runways on a volunteer basis. Still, the black mark on my record and all those years haunt me and eat at me. Can one moment in a life of exemplary character be so large as to totally negate all the good I've done? I said something, not did and never have nor ever will. Perhaps I was under stress from certain financial difficulties at the time or maybe I was a little insane to come up with such an example. I don't really know. All I know is that I'm tired of this whole mess. I'll drop it if you think it's best. Please tell me, is all this really worth the effort and agony to pursue it?

I always used to say that I married the Boy Scouts because all of my free time was spent with the movement. Almost all of my friends are involved in Scouting, some because I talked them into either joining or staying, and many because Scouting is where I met them. I always used to believe in Scouting and the values it stood for. I've had the supreme honor to present four Eagles and there is a good chance that I will soon present a fifth one. This would most likely indeed be an embarrassment for this council considering my current circumstances. This last one seriously considered giving up on his Eagle at one point although I admit I was not the only one who talked him into going ahead. To tell you the truth, at this point, I can walk away from the whole thing, but only with tears in my eyes; not so much for me although any great loss hurts deeply, but for all the boys I've helped and loved- for all the young men upon whose lives I've been a wholesome and positive influence- for all those within Scouting who will need me, both young and old, but for whom I'll not be there nor have the chance to meet. If testimonials and character references would help, I could flood your office with letters and show up in person with a small army. But, what would it prove? It may justify my righteousness and satisfy my ego, but if that's all, I think I'd prefer to pass. However, the fact remains that I have always been a quality leader and a credit to the ranks of Scouting.

Thank you for your attention and time in reading this statement.

*Sincerely, Kerry Busch*

CONF000220

DYKES\_I\_000218



March 26, 1984

Mr. Walter D. Johnson  
Scout Executive  
Dupage Area Council, No. 148

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Kerry S. Ruch

Dear Walter:

Thank you for the information on Kerry Ruch. We appreciate the complete transcript of the review held by the Dupage Area Council. This will be most helpful to us in the future if Mr. Ruch decides to pursue this further through the region.

Please let us know if we can be of further help to you in any way.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director  
Registration, Subscription &  
Statistical Service

ckf

cc: East Central Region

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ROUTING/USA

CONFIDENTIAL

March 19, 1984

Mr. Paul I. Ernst, Director  
Registration/Subscription Division  
National Council, BSA  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75062-1296

Dear Mr. Ernst:

Enclosed please find the minutes of the second and final meeting of this council's committee appointed to review the action suspending the registration of Kerry "Sunshine" Ruch.

Also enclosed are:

- Transcript of the committee's meeting with Ruch on February 23
- Mr. Ruch's most recent letter to the committee and resume'

I believe this concludes the necessary action by this council and provides you with copies of all pertinent documentation.

Sincerely,

Walter D. Johnson  
Scout Executive

WDJ/ey

cc: El Aspinall

Enclosures

DU PAGE AREA COUNCIL • NO. 143 • 312-568-4457  
P. O. BOX 692  
0N712 GARY AVENUE • WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189

CONF000222

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## MINUTES

## RUCH REVIEW COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1984 - 7:30 P.M.

DEICKE SCOUT SERVICE CENTER

CONFIDENTIAL

The meeting opened at 7:45 p.m. with all members present and the Scout executive serving as secretary.

At the chairman's request, the committee discussed the interview with Ruch on February 23rd (transcript attached) and his subsequent letter in lieu of the therapist's statement he was invited to provide if he so chose by March 8th.

The chairman then polled the committee as to their individual opinions. Following discussion, the chairman posed the question, "Shall this review committee confirm the previous decision to suspend the registration of Kerry Ruch?"

Grenier	-	aye
Atten	-	nay
Sawner	-	aye

Motion carried.

Atten voted "nay" on the basis that permanent suspension of Ruch's was too harsh in the circumstance and that he would prefer a "temporary suspension or probationary status of 18 months to three years."

The majority consensus was that Ruch was not a proper role model for youth, that he was emotionally unstable and unable to deal with stress and that they were concerned as to how he would react in a stressful situation, particularly if he were the only adult leader present.

The secretary was instructed to draft the necessary letters for the chairman's signature and the council President's informing Mr. Ruch of its decision and appending copies to these minutes.

Adjourned: 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter D. Johnson

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SCOUTING/USA

# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

March 15, 1984

Mr. Kerry Ruch  
P. O. Box 661  
Naperville, Illinois 60540

Dear Mr. Ruch:

After careful consideration, the Review Committee has decided to confirm the original decision to suspend your registration with the Boy Scouts of America.

As you were previously informed, BSA leadership registration is a privilege not automatically granted to everyone who applies. As you were also informed, this decision and the reason for it will be maintained as confidential.

Sincerely,

*Tom Sawner*  
Tom Sawner  
Chairman

TS/ey

DU PAGE AREA COUNCIL • NO. 148 • 312-668-4457  
P. O. BOX 692  
0N712 GARY AVENUE • WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189

CONF000224

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# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

March 15, 1984

Mr. Kerry Ruch  
P. O. Box 661  
Naperville, Illinois 60540

Dear Mr. Ruch:

I am enclosing a letter from the committee appointed at your request to review the suspension of your registration with the Boy Scouts of America. Upon careful review of the circumstances and events leading up to the decision to suspend your registration, the committee confirmed that decision.

You have the option to request a review by a committee appointed by the Regional President, Mr. Richard H. Leet. Should you wish to exercise that option, you should write Mr. Leet in care of the East Central Region, Boy Scouts of America, 601 Harger Road, Oak Brook, Illinois 60521, explaining why you feel the decision of this council's review committee is in error.

Sincerely,

Dan Walker  
Council President

DW/ey

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CONF000225

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SCOUTING/USA

# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

CONFIDENTIAL

December 28, 1983

Mr. Tom Sawner  
1557 Chippewa  
Naperville, Illinois 60540

Dear Tom,

Thank you for agreeing to chair the committee to review the denial of registration of Kerry S. Ruch.

I am in the process of contacting the required two additional members. Assuming I am successful, they will be:

Frank "Jeff" Jeffers, 1104 Hertford Ct., Wheaton; business phone 858-7780. Jeff is the fine young Scoutmaster of troop 23, First Presbyterian Church, Wheaton. He is also a practicing attorney with a firm in Glen Ellyn.

Rainey Grenier, 118 Kingswood Ct., Naperville; business phone 456-6100, Ext. 2738.

I will contact you and confirm their acceptances as soon as I have them. You may then wish to contact each of them and discuss the procedure in advance. Perhaps you and I should discuss it prior to your contacting them.

I am enclosing a kit which contains all of the documentation to date for your information and reference and will send an identical kit to both Rainey and Jeff. Each item is numbered for easy reference and except for the first item, arranged in chronological order.

- I Appendix C, Recommended Procedures for Reviewing Denial of Leader Registration, Maintaining Standards of Leadership  
The process to which we must adhere. Dave Hall, the National Council's attorney has received all pertinent documentation and commends us on our handling thus far.
- II Confirmation placing Ruch on Confidential File from Paul Ernst dated November 1, 1983 and including copies of necessary local council originated forms required. Of special importance is the statement of [REDACTED] grandfather as prepared by [REDACTED] and the letter from the council president, hand delivered to Ruch, placing him on suspension.
- III Ruch's undated response to the letter of suspension.
- IV Ruch's letter to [REDACTED] a copy of which was enclosed with item III above.  
Note: Another, similar letter was purportedly sent to John Gurnik at the same time. No copy available.

DU PAGE AREA COUNCIL • NO. 148 • 312-668-4457  
P. O. BOX 692  
60712 GARY AVENUE • WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189

CONF000226

DYKES\_I\_000224

December 23, 1981

V Walker's response to Item III and providing "Appendix D" as required.

VI Ruch's concise written version of the facts which was interpreted as also being a request for the review of suspension.

Note: I do not believe that Ruch knows his conversation with the [REDACTED] boy was overheard.

VII My letter to Dan advising the appointment of the review committee.

That brings you up to date.

In nearly 16 years as a council executive, while I have had to place a number of Scouters on the Confidential File for various reasons, only once before did an instance advance to the review phase. So, from prior experience, I cannot be of great help.

However, from that limited experience and my reading of "Appendix C", I would make these observations:

While the committee has the right and the responsibility to interview anyone who might clarify the circumstances, the review procedure is not intended as adversarial or confrontational in nature.

Ruch, in my opinion, is not aware that there was a witness to his telephone conversation.

It is also my opinion that he will request a Regional and subsequent National review in any event. Regardless, the procedures outlined in "Appendix C" must be followed with meticulous attention to the letter and spirit of those procedures.

The procedures must be conducted with attention to their confidentiality. Aside from those with a "need to know" in our office (myself, Mark Frankart, Gary McDonough and Elaine who has done the necessary typing) and those at the Regional and National level (El Aspinall, Paul Ernst and David Hall) and, of course, those at the unit level ([REDACTED] John Gurnik and the troop committee chairman), the situation has been kept confidential. All either know that it must be kept so or have been so informed and, to my knowledge, have done so.

I would urge an early review date, allowing for maximum time to notify Ruch who is increasingly difficult to reach. From my calendar I would suggest one of the following dates in January: 10th, 11th, 16th, 17th or 18th.

Regards,

Walter D. Johnson  
Scout Executive

WDJ/cy

cc: [REDACTED]

CONF000227

DYKES\_I\_000225



SCOUTING/USA

# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

December 20, 1983

Mr. Elbert Aspinall  
Associate Area Director  
East Central Region  
Boy Scouts of America  
601 Harger Road  
Oak Brook, Illinois 60521

Dear El,

Enclosed is Kerry Ruch's response to Dan Walker's letter of December 2. While contrary to instructions, he does not specifically request a review, it is implicit in Ruch's response that he does wish one.

I am sharing his letter with Dan by separate mail and suggesting he appoint the required review committee. Since the holidays are upon us, I suspect that this will not be accomplished until after the first of the year.

I am sure that the committee, when appointed, would appreciate any comment you and others would like to contribute.

Sincerely,

Walter D. Johnson  
Scout Executive

Enclosures:

Kerry Ruch's statement  
Letter to Council President

DU PAGE AREA COUNCIL • NO. 148 • 312-668-4457  
P. O. BOX 692  
0N712 GARY AVENUE • WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189

*Please send a  
copy of everything  
Personal & Confidential  
to David Parks  
Walter D. Johnson  
1-4-83*

CONF000228

DYKES\_I\_000226





SCOUTING/USA

# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

December 20, 1983

Mr. Daniel Walker  
Butler Walker, Inc.  
Suite 1180 - Regency Towers  
1415 W. 22nd Street  
Oak Brook, Illinois 60521

Dear Dan,

Enclosed is the expected response from Kerry Ruch and, for your reference, a copy of your (our) last letter to him.

While he doesn't specifically request it, I think it is implicit in his letter that he wishes a review. It is therefore necessary that a review committee be appointed.

I suggest the following members:

Thomas Sawner, Council Commissioner, Chairman  
Rainey Grenier, Illini District Commissioner  
Frank "Jeff" Jeffers, Scoutmaster Troop 23 (attorney)

In my opinion all three are widely experienced Scouters of a sympathetic nature, possessed of good judgement, who will render a fair and impartial decision.

Also enclosed for your reference is a photo copy of "Appendix C, Recommended Procedures for Reviewing Denial of Leader Registration".

If you concur with my recommendations, I will proceed in your name to secure their agreement and prepare the required documentation in the hopes that they will meet and resolve the situation promptly after the first of the year.

Sincerely,

Walter D. Johnson  
Scout Executive

Enclosures:

Kerry Ruch's statement  
"Appendix C"

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CONF000229

DYKES\_I\_000227

PHONE: 312-355-3135

KERRY S. RUCH  
P.O. Box 661  
Naperville, IL 60540

OCCUPATIONAL  
OBJECTIVE:

Position in a corporate setting requiring skill in  
-securing, placing, and managing employees  
-implementing company employee programs and benefits  
-analyzing, mediating, and settling labor grievances  
and employee disagreements  
-conducting community and public relations programs  
-counseling employees in communication techniques,  
problem solving, and career goals

EXPERIENCE:

- \*Supervised employees including hiring, managing, and releasing;  
as owner of a painting and remodeling business and as a night  
supervisor for a liquor store.
- \*Provided for the training and development of new employees in my  
own business, in the liquor store, and as head custodian for a  
church.
- \*Maintained employee records to fulfill government requirements.
- \*Marketed the services of a painting and remodeling business suc-  
cessfully over a thirteen year period.
- \*Promoted community programs for the Boy Scouts of America, espe-  
cially the Order of the Arrow; the youth services of the Salvation  
Army; and various youth athletic programs.
- \*Guided and facilitated productive behavior among diverse groups of  
people including students on high school campuses as a liaison be-  
tween them and the school administration dealing with discipline  
maintenance; and disadvantaged youths, adults, and related volun-  
teers as supervisor of a variety of programs for the Salvation Army.

WORK  
HISTORY:

<u>OWNER and OPERATOR</u>	Sunshine Services, West Chicago and Naperville, IL (Painting and Remodeling Business)	1969-PRESENT
<u>NIGHT SUPERVISOR</u>	Main Liquors, West Chicago, IL	1978-1980
<u>APPRENTICE ROUGH CARPENTER</u>	Feeley Builders, Lisle, IL	1976-1977
<u>CHIEF of SECURITY</u>	Hinsdale Central H.S., Hinsdale, IL	1975-1976
<u>STUDENT RELATIONS PARAPROFESSIONAL</u>	West Chicago Community High School, West Chicago, IL	1973-1975
<u>APPRENTICE DRYWALLER</u>	Baltic Drywall, Winfield, IL	1971

EDUCATION:

Coursework towards Master of Social Work, George Williams College,  
Downers Grove, IL 1979-1980  
B.A. in Psychology and B.S. in Social Work double degree, George  
Williams College, Downers Grove, IL June 1980  
Three years work towards Chemical Engineering degree, Illinois  
Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL 1969-1972

CONF000230

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CURRENT

AFFILIATIONS:

Umpires Metropolitan Professional Services, National Honor Society, MENSA, National Thespian Society, National Trappers Association, Illinois Trappers Association, National Wildlife Federation, Boy Scouts of America, Order of the Arrow, Illinois High School Association, NAA

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

BOY SCOUTS  
OF AMERICA

Assistant Scoutmaster 1969-1973, 1977-PRESENT  
Ceremonies Advisor for Order of the Arrow 1979-PRESENT  
Chapter Advisor for O.A. 1970-1971, 1975-1980, 1982-PRESENT  
Catholic Lay Committee protestant representative 1972-PRESENT  
Catholic Lay Comm. Retreat Chairman 1982 and 1983  
Scoutmaster 1973-1977, 1981  
Fellowship Advisor for O.A. 1974 and 1975

SALVATION ARMY  
TRI-CITIES CORPS  
VALLEY VIEW, IL

Director of Youth Services (gym program, boy's club, coffee house program, drop-in counselor) 1979-1980  
Social Services Intern (telephone counselor, community and agency resources co-ordinator) 1979-1980

YOUTH ATHLETICS

Illinois High School Association Official 1974-PRESENT  
Promoted to division two of three divisions by I.H.S.A. June 1980  
Naperville Little League and Pony League Umpire 1973-1977 1983-PRESENT  
Naperville Pony League Umpire of the Year 1975  
Coach for Naperville Park District High School hockey 1973  
West Chicago Little League Umpire 1969-1972  
Director of Umpires, West Chicago Little League 1971 and 1972  
Coach for Grades 5 & 6 instructional league basketball 1970 and 1971  
Coach for 5th & 6th Grades Pop Warner Football 1970 and 1971

CHURCH  
INVOLVEMENT

Church Custodian 1974-1978, 1980, 1982-PRESENT  
Sunday School Teacher for 5th and 6th Grades 1975 and 1976  
Retreat Cook for high school youth group 1972 and 1974

MISCELLANEOUS

Illinois Department of Conservation Certified Trapper -  
Education Instructor appointed 1982 through 1984  
Math Tutor Volunteer for high schools 1974-PRESENT  
Math Tutor Volunteer for George Williams College 1979-1980  
Girl Scout Leader for Jr. Girl Scouts 1972 and 1973  
Girl Scout Leader for Brownie Girl Scouts 1971

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DYKES\_I\_000229



SCOUTING/USA

# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

September 30, 1983

Mr. Kerry S. Ruch  
P. O. Box 661  
Naperville, Illinois 60540

Dear Mr. Ruch:

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should be suspended. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations that you may have with Boy Scouts of America.

You should understand that BSA leadership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to suspend registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not measure up to the high standards of leadership which BSA seeks to provide for American youth. Please also understand that this decision and the reasons for it will be maintained as confidential.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed, please write to me, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA leader should be granted or reinstated.

Sincerely yours,

Dan Walker  
Council President

ey

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P. O. BOX 692  
60712 GARY AVENUE • WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60187

CONF000232

DYKES\_I\_000230

STANDARDS OF LEADERSHIP REVIEW

KERRY RUCH

February 23, 1984, 8:05 p.m.

Deicke Scout Center

In attendance:

Chairman: Tom Sawner  
Members: Rainey Grenier  
          James Atten  
Secretary: Walter Johnson

Review Committee appointed by Council President, Dan Walker.

Welcoming comments were made by Chairman Tom Sawner to Mr. Ruch, explaining the purpose and procedure of the review.

Sawner asked for a statement by Ruch regarding the circumstances surrounding his suspension of registration privilege.

Ruch replied that the whole thing centered around a question taken out of context; that the boy in question had told Ruch "I love you", to which Ruch responded: "Would you prove your love by doing anything I asked you to do? Would you call me every night of the week to prove your friendship? Would you stand on your head and wiggle your ears? Would you take off your clothes and stand in front of me?"

Tom Sawner: Why, as a Scout leader, would you find it necessary to ask that kind of question?

Kerry Ruch: The question wasn't asked in a Scouting context but as a friend to a friend outside of Scouting.

Rainey Grenier: Describe your opinion of friendship outside of Scouting.

Kerry Ruch: Going to the movies, talking together, phone calls, swimming, video games.

Tom Sawner: Would you call that a love relationship or a friendship?

Kerry Ruch: I'd call it a beginning friendship -- a father and son type.

Jim Atten: Do you have school friends, perhaps other adults?

K.R.: Yes. I have friends older than I and younger and some going back to school days.

J.A.: Would you describe your living arrangement?

K.R.: Currently rent a house with two other guys.

CONF000233

DYKES\_I\_000231

T.S.: Do you feel you are psychologically strong enough to be a Scout leader?

K.R.: It doesn't affect my leadership in any way. . . .  
I have a drinking problem. I expect too much of my friends.

T.S.: Describe what you expect of your friends.

K.R.: I expect them to care about me. I expect regular contact, sharing what's going on. I expect trust. Not to share everything -- that's unrealistic -- but to share some things; problems.

J.A.: You said you had a drinking problem.

K.R.: I've been concerned about my weekly consumption . . . .

J.A.: Have you noticed a pattern to your drinking and can you describe it?

K.R.: In the evenings I come home. I have a rum and Coca Cola or beer or whiskey and . . . .

J.A.: How much do you drink in an evening?

K.R.: Four or five drinks perhaps.

J.A.: Do you feel compelled to drink?

K.R.: Not so much compelled. I like a drink in the evening after I get home or before I go to bed. Extreme financial pressure and my business has been poor and I am what I would call substantially in debt. Several thousand dollars. 30% of my debts are business related.

J.A.: Do I understand you are undergoing therapy and if so, by whom?

K.R.: Prefer not to reveal who -- he is a professional. My problems are related to pressure and drinking. I am concerned about the drinking because it is increasing according to my friends.

J.A.: Where do you drink? Do you drink when you're out with Scouts?

K.R.: Primarily at home. I don't notice any change of personality. I never drink when out with Scouts.

J.A.: What do you feel is the primary reason for your drinking.

K.R.: Depression is the primary reason.

J.A.: How are you doing in your therapy?

K.R.: I'm coping very well. I was released from regular visits at Christmastime. I've been going twice weekly, and then once weekly for two years total. I've only been back once since Christmas.

CONF000234

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J.A.: You were then undergoing counseling at the time of this incident?

K.R.: Yes.

I've been in debt since college.

T.S.: With my knowledge of what a Scout leader is and does, I can't understand why you would ask a boy to "take off your clothes while I watch."

K.R.: I don't know why. It was one in a series of hypothetical questions. Do you love me? Are you really sincere? It was a moral, not a sexual question.

T.S.: Do you think that enhanced your Scouting leadership in any way? That it enhanced his Scouting experience?

K.R.: No.

T.S.: Do you think it was helpful to him?

K.R.: Yes, it was. To help myself and him. Clarifying his friendship, his love, his responsibility for his friendship.

T.S.: Do you think a true friend must state his love; do anything you ask?

K.R.: No, not at that point. I had retrogressed, but I no longer feel that way. I had been drinking that night.

J.A.: Do you feel a 15-year age relationship is necessary in such a friendship?

K.R.: My friendships are developed in and out of Scouting. I don't feel a necessity with any particular person or age.

J.A.: Don't you feel a 15-year age difference is a problem?

K.R.: I don't feel compelled to develop relationships; Scouting friendships are coincidental.

J.A.: The unusual age difference?

K.R.: It is not illegal. I'm of high moral character. The question was not illegal. I don't allow my friendship to interfere with parental responsibility.

J.A.: Would you say that your friendships are basically through Scouting?

K.R.: Most, but not all. I am active as a trapper. I umpire games and work with other youth groups, but mostly Scouting.

J.A.: Friendships are particularly important to you?

K.R.: Yes. I am single; don't have any family. Friends are important as a support group; to borrow 50 bucks when I need it or a meal when I have nothing at home.

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T.S.: What do you demand of your friends?

K.R.: Regular contact; phone at least once a month and to prove their friendship, to do something difficult but not necessarily wrong. I don't ask them to do anything that is against the Bible or Federal or State law.

T.S.: Don't you think that asking them to take off their clothes is against State law and/or the Bible?

K.R.: Not asking for the commitment; no.

T.S.: And if the answer were yes?

K.R.: I'm only looking for the commitment.

T.S.: And if you get it?

K.R.: It doesn't -- it's not important.

T.S.: Do you require that kind of commitment?

K.R.: Unequivocally, no. I've never done it, only asked for the commitment.

J.A.: Why is this necessary, this commitment?

K.R.: That would be rehashing two years of therapy. I have been deeply hurt by friends in the past and must have a commitment before I can trust a new friend.

J.A.: Was your conduct proper for a Scout leader?

K.R.: No, I can see it was an improper question now. It creates undue pressure on a friend. I'm dealing with that in therapy.

J.A.: Do you feel you're beyond that need?

K.R.: Yes I do.

T.S.: As a parent, would you see a problem in this kind of a situation?

K.R.: I see no problem with it. You shouldn't be a Scout leader if you disturb or hamper a boy's development.

T.S.: Have you pursued other young Scouts in this manner?

K.R.: I haven't pursued any other young Scouts.

T.S.: Have you demanded this kind of a commitment of young people in any of these other programs in which you have been working?

CONF000236

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K.R.: I have.

T.S.: You've asked them to take off their clothes in front of you?

K.R.: Questions in a similar nature. I've used them in the past, yes.

J.A.: Would you use a question like that with somebody 55 or older?

K.R.: Yes, of any age.

J.A.: What do you feel you would gain from a question like that?

K.R.: In the past I felt it would prove friendship.

T.S.: And what if they said yes?

K.R.: I'd say O.K. I was only asking for the commitment, not the act.

J.A.: What is your feeling about in the future? Would you continue to seek out such friendships with kids?

K.R.: It's always something that just happens. I would no longer ask. I have progressed greatly through therapy and I recognize that that kind of behavior and its questions have driven friends away.

J.A.: Do you feel that this need for friendships and your drinking problem are related?

K.R.: I drink when I am depressed. A break up with a friend is depressing.

T.S.: How do you feel about this loss of a love relationship?

K.R.: That they no longer love me, but that I still love them. I felt that I needed to protect me. My therapy is terminated now just before Christmas. I've only been back once since.

J.A.: Could you graph your need for therapy?

K.R.: (With a sweeping upward motion) My licensed therapist things I am doing extremely well.

T.S.: Kerry, would you like to make a summarizing statement now before we adjourn?

K.R.: Most people don't understand the problems I had. Most people don't understand me. It is all in the past now. I have ways of dealing with my problems. I have been in Scouting for over 20 years. It is a way of life to me. To lose it is extremely important and I would like to continue.

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T.S.: As a parent, wouldn't it be hard for him to rely upon you to provide a safe and good program to his sons?

K.R.: I am absolutely sure that I can. I've spent literally millions of hours in Scouting and they have been unimpeachable. But I can see as a parent felt how they might well question my value.

J.A.: Don't you suppose that there might be others in the council who would object to your being a suitable leader. What would your reaction to that be?

K.R.: As long as they're not just vigilantes, seeking to throw me out of Scouting, I would respect their judgement.

J.A.: How do you value Scouting in comparison to your other activities?

K.R.: Scouting was my primary activity when young. It is up and down now, depending on my commitment to other activities. I have served sometimes as assistant Scoutmaster to as many as three troops at once.

J.A.: What would be your long range plans in Scouting if your registration privilege was reinstated?

K.R.: To serve as an assistant Scoutmaster, maybe a Scoutmaster in the future, depending upon my other involvements.

T.S.: Would you be willing to request of your therapist a corroborating statement regarding your condition and its improvement?

K.R.: I am reluctant to request that kind of a statement from my therapist.

T.S.: Is your therapist aware of this situation and that your registration privilege has been suspended?

K.R.: I haven't discussed appearing before this committee with him. He is aware of my problems. He might make such a statement. I could ask. I'm reluctant to ask.

J.A.: We'll leave the final decision to a therapist's statement to you.

K.R.: I am reluctant to ask. I guess I could.

J.A.: If you pursue a statement from your therapist, it might make the decision of this committee easier.

T.S.: You feel your statement would not contribute to the committee's decision?

K.R.: No.

T.S.: The therapist's statement is purely your decision; whether you provide one or not, the committee will have to decide.

K.R.: O.K.

T.S.: We will expect such a statement within two weeks, otherwise we will make our decision and inform you by letter what that is. I think that you have already been instructed as to your right to ask for further review of this situation with the Region. Should that become necessary in your opinion, you can get the details on how to do that from us.

CONF000238

DYKES\_I\_000236

Dear Review Committee,

My registration with the Boy Scouts of America should not have been denied. I have already forwarded a complete summary of the situation to the council president. In addition to that treatise, I am told that I need to submit a more concise statement of the facts is necessary. I request that the original statement be included as evidence in addition to this report.

- Fact A: It is not in dispute that I asked a perhaps compromising question of a young man who also happens to be in Scouting.
- Fact B: This statement was made over the phone and in no way involved Scouting in any way. It was a conversation between personal friends outside of Scouting.
- Fact C: The question, despite the connotations and accusations, had nothing to do with sex, sexual preferences, or immoral conduct. It had a lot to do with the permanence of love and friendship in the most upright and wholesome sense.
- Fact D: I am not now, nor have I ever been; nor have I ever participated in any act; nor do I ever intend to be or participate in acts which are sexually immoral. I do not believe in sex outside of marriage with anyone, male or female.
- Fact E: My long history in numerous youth organizations adding to somewhere near 50 years of service is untarnished. That in and of itself is not proof positive, but it certainly indicates my tendencies which lie in the area of sincere concern and caring and not in the area of morally questionable behavior.
- Fact F: I can inundate your review board meeting room with people who will attest to my moral integrity. Many of these people come from within the ranks of Scouting.
- Fact G: We have all, you and I, said or done something stupid in our lives. This does not make us bad people, only human. I should not have discussed philosophical and hypothetical concepts of such grave concern with the young man (not boy) in question. I did it for two reasons. One was that I really wanted to be sure of his friendship due to the mental stress I was under at the time. The other was a concern and attempt to help the young man in question. I wish not to elaborate any further on that point to protect innocent parties. I will not discuss that area of interest with anyone under 21 again.

I hope that this has helped your deliberations and that truth and justice will be our mutual aim.

As Always,  
  
Kerry S. Sunshine Ruch

CONF000239

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**P.O. BOX 661  
NAPERVILLE  
ILLINOIS  
60540**

Dear Revision Committee,

As I promised, I discussed the possibility of a statement with my therapist. Quite frankly, his advice was to sue you. As a matter of fact, he was rather insistent upon it and even called me a few days after our meeting to give me the name of a highly successful slender lawyer. I have not, as yet, intentionally sought after trouble and even though many times the best defense is a good offense, I hesitate to do so. I felt, and still do, that the simple truth is an infallible defense among honest and fair-minded men. Based on that simple truth, I can't see how you could refuse my re-instatement in Scouting.

A friend of mine, one to whom I presented his Eagle a few years ago, pointed out that I'm being persecuted for ideas and concepts very similar to those of Christ's. In His own words, "I tell you this so that you may have the happiness that I have had, and that your happiness may be complete. The command that I give you is to love one another. No one can show any greater love than by committing his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I ask you to do." Now, I hardly claim to be Christ, and I agree that I carried the concept to a little bit of an extreme and said something that even I agreed was inappropriate and subversive to a good and proper influence. Yet, I've done nothing criminal enough nor hideous enough to cause my permanent suspension from Scouting. Will it ever happen again? I've given my word of honor that (the good Lord willing and the creeks don't rise) it never will. Perhaps for many in today's society, and perhaps even among several within our Scouting fraternity, a word of honor is meaningless. You have only to ask around to find that when I give my word, it's as good as done. After all, the first point of our Scout Law is that a Scout is trustworthy.

Let me take a moment here to remind you that the original charge and the reason for my suspension was that my "moral life does not meet the standards for leadership in the Boy Scouts of America." At this point, there is no doubt in anyone's mind as to my moral purity. Can it be, that having successfully answered that charge, and thus justifying my re-instatement, that I'm being ostracized on yet another tangent?

Am I mentally stable enough to exert a positive influence on the lives of young people? Your hearing the other night had a morbid pre-occupation with the past few years of my life and not with the reality of the present or the probable possibilities rather than the more or less unlikely probabilities of the future. Despite the difficulties I've had (and have overcome), you need only to investigate those lives I've touched to determine that I was still a quality leader. I may not have been as good as I once was. At this point I can be an even better one because of my experience and the fact that I'm not limited by paranoia or depression or whatever other label you care to choose for my psychological turbulence.

After a thorough discussion of the issue and an investigation of possible outcomes, I have decided that I will not release the name of my therapist. Also, he is unwilling to place his professional reputation and records out for your inquiry and scrutiny. First and foremost to me is the fact that it's a private and none of your business. Secondly, due to the nature of his practice, there are several legal ramifications, obtainable subpoenas, possibilities of misinterpretations, etc., etc., etc. If you still have questions concerning my mental stability, they can be easily alleviated by a complete psychological evaluation by a psychiatrist whose records can be fully protected. The reality of the present and the likelihood of the future, not the problems of the past, are the real issue. However, such an evaluation would be a severe financial burden. At my request, my therapist has supplied me

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**NAPERVILLE**  
**ILLINOIS**  
**60540**

with the help of a competent psychiatrist who would be willing to do the evaluation. The choice is yours whether you insist that I call him or not.


I ask that you re-instate my registration without further persecution, punishment, or oppression. Six months of suspension is punishment enough for the one lapse in propriety I am guilty of. Certainly, my record in millions of hours of contact with young men and women bears out the fact that I'm not normally given to such lapses. I'm willing to accept up to eighteen months of probation if you are still that unsure.

In my younger days, in a striving for perfectionism (a quality I shared with many young achievers of both yesterday and today), I was often outspoken and hasty in my criticism of inadequate or dishonest professionals and volunteers. Being a home-grown boy, that stigma still follows me somewhat. Despite that, I've been one of the highest quality leaders this council has had. I close now with a statement on my philosophy and advice for living. It is the way that I long ago personally chose to live my life by.

"Always be good, for only in goodness is true greatness to be found. Always be obedient, for it is in obedience to little things that we prove ourselves worthy and responsible to handle greater things. And, always help other people at all times, for it is only in helping others that we find any true meaning and happiness in life."

Now then, you tell me what kind of a leader I make.

As Always,

  
Kerry S. Sunshine Ruch

CONF000241

DYKES\_I\_000239

Fairly late in the evening the phone rang---a man asked to speak to [REDACTED]. I went to the foot of the stairs and called [REDACTED]---he came down from his bedroom to the second floor. When I got back to my chair I lifted the phone to see if the connection was made---I heard the man talking to [REDACTED] and for some reason I cannot explain I did not hang up. During their conversation he called himself Sunshine a number of times. He also on many occasions he said "I love you, [REDACTED]." Each time [REDACTED] replied "I like you too". This interchange took place on numerous occasions. Also on more than one occasion Sunshine said "[REDACTED] will you take off all of your clothes and stand in front of me?" Each time [REDACTED] replied "No".

In between these remarks there was quite a bit of small talk which I do not recall probably because it was about matters which did not mean much to me. However, from the remarks which are in quotes, there is no question in my mind that "Sunshine" is a homosexual and should not be in charge of training young boys.

[REDACTED]

The conversation lasted between ten and fifteen minutes.

This event occurred on the evening of Sept. 28, 1983. This is a copy of my father's letter verbatim.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

I could see that you were quite uneasy the night you left the note. I would guess that you were both hurt and confused, I would hope that by now you are more rational and reasonable; but you probably do not want to hear very much of what I am about to tell you. Indeed, if all indications are correct, you will dismiss this whole discourse and understand little if any of the actual life reality involved. Still, I feel compelled to say a few things and I believe you honest enough to make an attempt at understanding. I feel compassion and concern for you and your thoughts and feelings and can understand where you're coming from based on what you obviously believe at this time. I am also, however, extremely agitated and indignant. My moral standards are every bit as high as yours if not higher. I am a BIBLE believing and BIBLE following fundamental Christian and simply do not do anything contrary to the teachings found in The Word of GOD. I do not do such things for the simple reason that I believe they are wrong. You yourself have known me for almost twelve years and know that my actions are impeccable. Even when we have had philosophical disagreements, my motives and actions have always been unmistakeably pure. I have never, nor will I ever, participate in any actions even remotely similar to what you are obviously suspecting. My past actions attest to the truth of that statement; and if that isn't good enough for you, I invite you to scrutinize any and all past, present, and future actions as closely as you wish to satisfy your own mind. This current misunderstanding comes (I assume) from a certain hypothetical question - phrased in the manner: would you, if I asked you to, do ... , simply because I asked- which I asked. I respect your intelligence enough to know that you know as well as I that a hypothetical question hardly constitutes an immoral act nor is representative in any way of immoral standards or an immoral lifestyle. How many times have you heard someone say something like "if I asked you to, would you marry me"? If you've ever spent much time working with teenagers and really listened to what they say, you would have heard that countless times. Is that a proposal for marriage? I don't think even you would

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in a sense of "do you really like me? Are you sure? Will I get hurt if I trust you? Will you still like me tomorrow? What about the day after?"

Now then, my question of "Would you do anything I asked you to?" and "for instance, if I asked you to, would you ... just because I asked you to?" are very similar. If that's the case, why would an apparently responsible, mostly mature, obviously intelligent person of my age ask such questions? How could anyone be so desperate for acceptance and love and caring that they would actually get down on their knees and beg someone else to be their friend (which I have, I'm embarrassed to admit, I've done). What has happened to a person's free choice and options and opportunities that the only choice or option they see that's left is suicide? I've threatened that several times and attempted it three times.

All these things you never knew about me, nor ever indicated in any way that you cared one way or another. [REDACTED], despite his spoiled and pathologically selfish and maneuvering ways, at least said he cared. Even though he said so, I didn't believe him. I couldn't believe him. I am not able to believe that anyone really cares about me, loves me, unconditionally (a BIBLICAL concept), or is even concerned whether I live or die. I want to believe there's someone. The omni-everything desire to find anyone almost completely took over my life and threw me into deep depressions and drove me to heavy drinking. I'm seeing professional help about my problem. I admit, that at this time, I am not the most mentally stable person. I am not, at this time or any other time, however, an immoral person.

Do you know what it's like to be totally alone in this world? Do you have any concept whatsoever what it's like to have no one at all on your side? Then, try to face the regular pressures of modern existence not to mention the severe stress of extreme financial pressure and the disappointment of being turned down on over three hundred job applications during the recent months of last October through February. Even you would, at times, lose touch with reality. Even the smallest problems seem to become insurmountable.

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my questions was some sort of commitment, a guarantee that someone would still be my friend tomorrow. Can you sense the tears rising up and the extremely fragile and sensitive emotions that surface? I may have been crazy, but never was I nor am I now about to lower my moral standards to the point you have accused me of. Despite gains made in therapy, I was depressed and drunk the night I called. I had gone to the hall, but the meeting was not held there obviously. My questions were in poor taste and even poorer judgment. They offended you and your family. For that, I was wrong and deserve whatever retribution appropriate. I apologize, although I fully realize that an apology is not some magic stardust that automatically makes everything all right again. I have been mentally mixed up and am making progress to correct that. My troubles have extremely little if anything at all to do with what I apparently was accused of. You have seen fit to appoint yourself as some sort of self-made vigilante and have persecuted me entirely out of Scouting without even finding out exactly what happened or why. I have already forgiven you in my own mind; I do not have a vindictive bone in my body. It is an undeniable fact, however, that what you did was far, far more wrong than what I did, despite the morality or good intentions of us both.

I have always been and will continue to be a constant and consistent influence for good in the lives of young men and women. I make mistakes like everyone else. I still believe I was right in the OA incident with your [REDACTED] although I know you have still never forgiven me for that. Still, you cannot deny the above statement and still be an honest man. I was condemned for one statement (or rather question) that was apparently totally misunderstood. At this point, I can see how it could have been. Through therapy, I am now past that (as well as the suicidal notions, if you care to know - a few months ago a crisis such as this would have thrown me into another attempt). I have made rather remarkable and rapid progress arising out of the crisis of this situation and will be released from therapy in a matter of weeks if all continues to go so well. In a way, some good has come of this whole mess anyhow.

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apart from the one you covered and is the purpose for this letter, I don't think I shall go into at this time).

As a closing comment on this dissertation, it has to be said that I've hardly done anything severe enough to be suspended from Scouting the rest of my life. For me, Scouting is a way of life. I've always taken seriously the Scout Law and Oath ever since I first joined as a Cub and later on into Boy Scouts. More recently, I have added to the way I conduct my daily affairs, the concept of Cheerful-Service. I live my daily life according to all the principles of the Oath and Law and the OA. I can understand, under the circumstances, that it would be best to leave the troop ( our troop - I have several years of my life invested in it ); but I cannot understand your overly impetuous ideophrenia in driving me out of Scouting.

I leave you now with a couple of poems I wrote. I think them appropriate to close.

#### You Can't Be Sure

The words of a song, a whisper,  
A smile and my friends - though few;  
The kaleidoscope patchwork of a jumbled mind;  
It's strange what harm a thought can do.

A single thought can make you sad  
And life can make you lonely.  
Mourning over friends you thought you had -  
And maybe you do have a friend; only  
You can't be sure.

11-72 by "Sunshine"

#### Innocent Condemned

Rest easy, though you were innocent  
they heaped you with scorn.  
Time may bring truth, in the end they may mourn.  
In their misunderstanding they thrust  
the blade,  
And as you were falling their victory cry made.  
They thought it was best, that justice was  
done,  
And there at your side, remained not one.

The ones you befriended day after day  
Were the ones who smiled as they  
laid you away.  
Those who you would have done anything for  
Should have remembered your goodness

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Rest easy, though you were innocent,  
they misunderstood;  
But when all the wrongs have settled,  
the truth shall remain, that is, you stood for what's good.

2-16-72 by Kerry S. Ruch

Now amazingly appropriate to what has happened to me now. A poem by me about  
me. With all sincerity and humility:

As Always,  
*Kerry S. Sunshine Ruch*  
K. S. Sunshine Ruch

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I was very much amazed and surprised that you became involved in my removal from the ranks of Scouting without a dissenting outcry. You have known me for years. You were my main assistant all four years I was Scoutmaster. You have witnessed up close and first hand how I deal with people and especially how I deal with Scouts. Although you may not have always agreed with my tactics, deep down inside you know that my moral character is pure and impeccable. You also know that the past few years have been terribly unkind to me. Perhaps I've been a little "off the wall" at times recently as I've reeled under the blows life has dealt me. I have not, however, lowered my rather high moral standards. You know something else? In all the years I've known you and [REDACTED] neither of you ever offered your friendship. Neither of you ever invited me to dinner or called to see if I was all right. I care about others, most of them young people. It tears me up inside to see young people who have all the talent and potential one could possibly want and have all that life left ahead of them but are not functioning to the limits they could achieve. I believe without a doubt that [REDACTED] has serious problems. Perhaps I should have spent more time on my own problems before I tried to have an impact on his life. I thought we could help each other. You may not understand what all that has to do with the hypothetical question I asked him. But, since you are involved, you may as well know the rest of it. Enclosed, you will find a copy of the letter I'm sending to [REDACTED]. It is not a full and detailed justification of what I said but might shed some light on my intentions. Let me also remind you that it was something I said, not what I did, that was blown both out of proportion and context. I'm sorry you did not have the courage to stand up and stop this whole thing before I was suspended from Scouting for life. Scouting was my life.

I have completed and been released from therapy and am doing well psychologically and emotionally. Financially, I've not been buried yet, but I'm still running from the avalanche. I still like you and think you've accomplished a lot of good with your life. You will be a welcome guest in my

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still guilty of caring, caring too much, even when it's not of my business. I have a dream. I dream of winning the lottery or something. I'd buy a house and take in runaways, give them a home and love and send them through college if they want. I'd also help my best friend (he'll graduate high school this year) and my kid sister (she's a freshman at the University of Illinois this year) through college. I'd also take care of my parents (they're getting old) and my brother (he doesn't work). I'd also finish my PhD in clinical psychology specializing in adolescents and contribute my time to salvaging lives worth saving. Ah well, someday, maybe someday. In the meantime, I will continue to believe in my high moral standards - which do not include what you and [REDACTED] have apparently accused me of conspiring to do. I will also continue to dedicate my life to helping others in any way I can. I believe in prayer and would appreciate your prayers on my behalf. Take care of yourself and continue to do the best you can. You made a wrong judgement about me. It may not be too late to correct the mistake.

As Always,

*Kerry Sunshine Ruch*  
K. S. Sunshine Ruch

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Dear Dan, *Wanda / Cousin Mary*

I have long waited in writing this letter. I suppose it's long overdue, but I feel I have a responsibility to protect the innocent (which in this case is not limited to me only). I must, however, insist that you lift the suspension upon my registration with the Boy Scouts of America. I, more than most, hold leadership in the BSA as an honor and seek to elevate and preserve the high standards of leadership in our organization. I don't need to tell you that several in our leadership ranks not only fool around behind their wives backs, but also brag about it when they're "out with the boys". I do not condone such behavior nor do I believe that any sexual conduct outside of marriage; whether it be hetero-, homo-, or bi-sexual; is either right or moral. My moral standards are probably higher than most in our modern liberal society. I have often been referred to as a square peg in a round society (square as in the somewhat outdated connotative meaning). However, I do not flaunt my standards nor do I go out of my way to criticize those who believe differently. I walk a path that is different from most and it is my difference that causes others to question my conduct. I have never, nor do I ever intend to participate in a morally impure act. In the particular matter in question, to be quite frank, you don't have enough evidence to hang a church mouse. Indeed, my beliefs and my past and current history would dispell any conjectures that may have been put forth. There are mothers who not only allow their sons to hang around with me, but actively desire the relationship. I have always been a powerful and positive influence for good in the lives of the young men and women I deal with. Many of them (males of course) spend nights and even whole weekends with me. To tell you the truth, being single despite its many advantages is sometimes a lonely proposition. I enjoy kids and some say I should have had twelve or fifteen of my own. I enjoy having the company and joke with their parents about borrowing them because I have none of my own. Due to the waywardness of fate while I was dating in earnest and certain financially embarrassing predicaments, I suspect that I will be single for some time to come. Thus, I will continue to borrow other peoples kids. It's funny

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also peculiar (if the alleged accusations are even partially true) that in over twenty-two years in Scouting of double and even triple registrations, that nobody has ever questioned my moral purity. It seems to me that what we have here is a clear cut case of hasty and over-anxious misjudgement resulting in obscene deformation of character. I know two things. First of all, you were acting under the orders (recommendations) of one Mr. Walter Johnson when you suspended my registration. Thus I don't hold you liable alone - he is also included. Secondly, you are quite knowledgeable in legal matters. Since you have defamed me in an area which bears seriously in the area of my life's work, a suit in the amount of \$125,000 a piece is not out of the question. Indeed, it is quite conservative. I have only two quarters to go to receive my masters and a few more years to receive a PhD in clinical psychology specializing in adolescents. I have umpired for over fourteen years and have been friends with many many baseball players in the age range from eight to eighteen. I have three years of leadership in the Girl Scouts of America. I've taught fifth and sixth grade Sunday School for two years and substituted for several more, run a youth gym program for the Salvation Army, coached basketball and football, and have been involved in numerous church youth groups. In short, my entire life has been dedicated and devoted to the betterment of youth and my future plans lie in the same direction. Let me remind you again that in all my involvement with Scouting as I've said and with all the other involvement with youth, my moral conduct has been proved impeccable! As for Walt, he and I have not seen eye to eye since the first weeks he came to this council. We had a meeting at the Pebble Wood Clubhouse just off Rts. 59 with several of the volunteers. At that meeting Walt lied to us. Being young and not wise in the ways of Boy Scout politics, I called him on it. We have not been friends since although I'm sure he has long since forgotten why. Unfortunately he has not forgotten how to lie nor has he improved his low opinion and dislike of volunteers (which he has often stated). I firmly believe, as do at least a majority if not most of the volunteers

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Council would be to get rid of Walt Johnson. Be that as it may, and getting back to the subject at hand, I don't really intend to sue you or Walt unless I am forced to do so. My high moral integrity causes a natural aversion to suing and joining the ranks of the sewers. Biblically, we are taught not to be so concerned with retrieving possessions that have been stolen nor are we to sue anyone unless all other avenues of sense and propriety have failed. We are, however, to build and protect our good names and our honor. You will find enclosed with this letter, a letter to the man who apparently started this whole mess. It states the facts of the matter truthfully and honestly. It's not exactly a full and detailed explanation of why I said what I did, but you should be able to understand the gist of it and be assured of the purity of my intentions. I have been released from therapy already. Also, if you would like character witnesses, I can produce at least a dozen from within the ranks of Scouting who have had close relationships with me and more than two dozen who have had lesser relationships but are willing to take a stand by my side. If you care for character witnesses from both inside and outside of Scouting, I can produce well over fifty who have told me they are willing to take a stand. I have very few good friends, but my moral integrity and utmost honesty will not allow those who know me to believe that I ever committed or even thought about committing a morally questionable act. Now that's something to think about! There are several adult leaders who don't even understand kids much less what I'm all about. Many of them have no idea what's going on in the lives of the young men they are dealing with nor how to relate to them. A certain drinking incident at summer camp a couple of years ago at the ignorance of their troop leaders is only one example. I have always been close to the kids, some insist that my relationships have been too close. I care, I care very deeply. That fact, and the fact that I have always spent more time relating to the kids than I have to the adults; have no doubt contributed to my current predicament. There are kids out there screaming in countless silent and indirect ways for help.

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The young man in question in this incident is one of them. Something I said, not what I did, was blown out of proportion and context. I was trying to help him as well as myself and I want him protected at all costs. He has enough problems already. Take a deep breath and set your course firmly to do what is right, not only in protecting the innocent but also in re-instating my registration in Scouting. Thank you for your kind attention in this matter.

As always,  
  
Kerry S. Sunshine Buch

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November 1, 1983

Mr. Walter D. Johnson  
Scout Executive  
Dupage Area Council, No. 148

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Kerry S. Ruch

Dear Walter:

Thank you for the detailed information concerning the above Scouter. We have reviewed this case with our Attorney and have now placed this man on the Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director  
Registration Subscription &  
Statistical Service

eko

cc: East Central Region

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To dkp  
 Date 12-01 Time \_\_\_\_\_

**WHILE YOU WERE OUT**  
 M Al Aspinall  
 of ECR ofc

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Area Code \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Extension \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALLED TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message Please call  
around 2 P.M.

Operator Cy



AMPAD  
EFFICIENCY®

23-000 50 SHT. PAD  
23-001 250 SHT. DISPENSER BOX

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# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

SCOUTING/USA

October 4, 1983

Mr. Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration and Subscription Service  
Boy Scouts of America  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75062-1296

Dear Mr. Ernst:

This is to inform you of the action taken by the leadership of troop 106, Knights of Columbus #1369, Naperville, Illinois, and the DuPage Area Council in suspending the privilege of registration with the Boy Scouts of America of Kerry S. Ruch, an assistant Scoutmaster in that troop.

The enclosed documentation will explain this action. It was felt necessary that this council join in troop 106's action in that Mr. Ruch is actively involved in a variety of council activities and committees from which we feel he must now disengage totally.

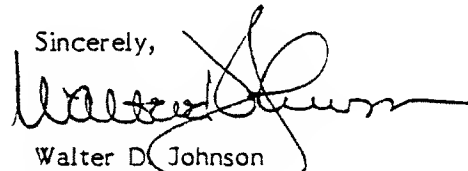
Both council and troop leadership have been concerned for some time about Mr. Ruch's actions without specific, concrete incidents upon which to act, although, until this past summer, we did not suspect his moral life style.

A standard letter, copy also enclosed, was mailed to Mr. Ruch informing him of the council's action following a meeting with members of the troop's adult leadership in which he was advised to disassociate himself from the troop. The council president's letter was mailed rather than hand-delivered in view of the difficulty of contacting Mr. Ruch in person.

A memorandum of the troop leadership's meeting with Mr. Ruch is also enclosed.

The DuPage Area Council and the committee of troop 106 strongly advise - that the appropriate action suspending Mr. Ruch as a Scout leader be taken by the National Council immediately.

Sincerely,



Walter D. Johnson  
Scout Executive

Enclosures

DU PAGE AREA COUNCIL • NO. 148 • 312-668-4457  
P. O. BOX 692  
0N712 GARY AVENUE • WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60187

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SCOUTING/USA

# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

September 30, 1983

Mr. Kerry S. Ruch  
P. O. Box 661  
Naperville, Illinois 60540

Dear Mr. Ruch:

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should be suspended. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations that you may have with Boy Scouts of America.

You should understand that BSA leadership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to suspend registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not measure up to the high standards of leadership which BSA seeks to provide for American youth. Please also understand that this decision and the reasons for it will be maintained as confidential.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed, please write to me, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA leader should be granted or reinstated.

Sincerely yours,

Dan Walker  
Council President

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